FEBRUARY 3, 2023

AUDIOLOGY PROCESS FOR DISABILITY CRICKET

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Audiology Process for Disability Cricket

Introduction

The ECB National Disabled County Championship has been in existence for nearly 30 years now and over that time, it has allowed players with either a physical or learning disability to take part.

In order for players with either a physical or learning disability to compete, it has been necessary to ensure those players meet certain eligibility criteria with reference to their respective disabilities. The classification systems used have been in place now for around ten of those years and are now an embedded part of the player registration process.

From the 2020 season we were all set to introduce players with a hearing impairment into the competitions. This ground-breaking move would mean that players across three separate impairment groups would be playing and competing on the same pitch at the same time, something unheard of in disability team sport. Obviously, the 2020 season did not go as we expected due to the global pandemic, however, we were still excited for this to happen in the 2021 season.

In order to remain consistent with player eligibility, it will be necessary to ensure those players with a hearing impairment meet the agreed criteria for inclusion into the competitions.

This document will go on to explain the process, it will also explain what the thresholds are and what each player must do as part of their player registration process to ensure they are eligible to take part.

ECAD

In order to manage the process, the ECB are working in close partnership with ECAD (English Cricket Association for the Deaf). ECAD is a charitable membership organisation who work to increase participation for deaf and hard of hearing people in cricket.

As a member organisation, ECAD offer deaf-specific opportunities to play representative cricket and players are more than welcome to join ECAD for this purpose and other benefits offered by ECAD, however, becoming an ECAD member is not a requirement for players who only wish to take part in ECB disability competitions.

Eligibility Criteria

The document will further explain the different eligibility requirements between the ECB domestic disability competitions and those that are required for international competition.

Whilst the ECB National Disabled County Championship is a competitive competition, being able to participate is still at its heart and is a core value. With that in mind the eligibility requirements for a player with a hearing impairment is set at a lower threshold than that required at international level.

By setting the bar lower, the competitions become accessible to many more people than would be the case if the international requirements were used domestically. Having a two-tiered approach is one that we have adopted in both physical and learning disability eligibility systems and it makes perfect sense to do the same for those that have a hearing impairment.

ECB Domestic Competitions

In order to be eligible to take part in ECB disability cricket domestic competitions, **a player must be able to evidence a hearing loss of 26Db or above in their better ear.** The evidence should take the form of a recognised audiogram with its supportive documentation.

Players who have a hearing loss that meet these criteria are eligible to compete in the ECB National Disabled County Competitions and those players are entitled to wear their current hearing enhancers. If a player chooses to remove them, then that is their own personal choice.

The diagram below illustrates the registration process for deaf or HI cricketers for ECB domestic disability competitions.

International Deaf Cricket

The hearing loss level for players who wish to perform at **international level will need to demonstrate a hearing loss of 55Db in their better ear**. Players at international level must remove all hearing aids or cochlear implants before entering the playing zone.

For deaf and hard of hearing people to compete at elite levels, it is necessary that the hearing loss of those athletes conform with established international standards for deaf sport.

Participants in any of the ECB organised squads or where and England Deaf representative team is competing in an organised and sanctioned deaf cricket series or tournament must be:

Deaf, defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB pure tone average (PTA) in the better ear (three-tone pure tone average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, air conduction, ISO 1969 Standard)

It is forbidden for a cricketer to use any kind of hearing aid or amplification or external cochlear implant parts during the warmup and competition within the restricted zone area. This is to prevent giving advantage over those not using amplification in sports.

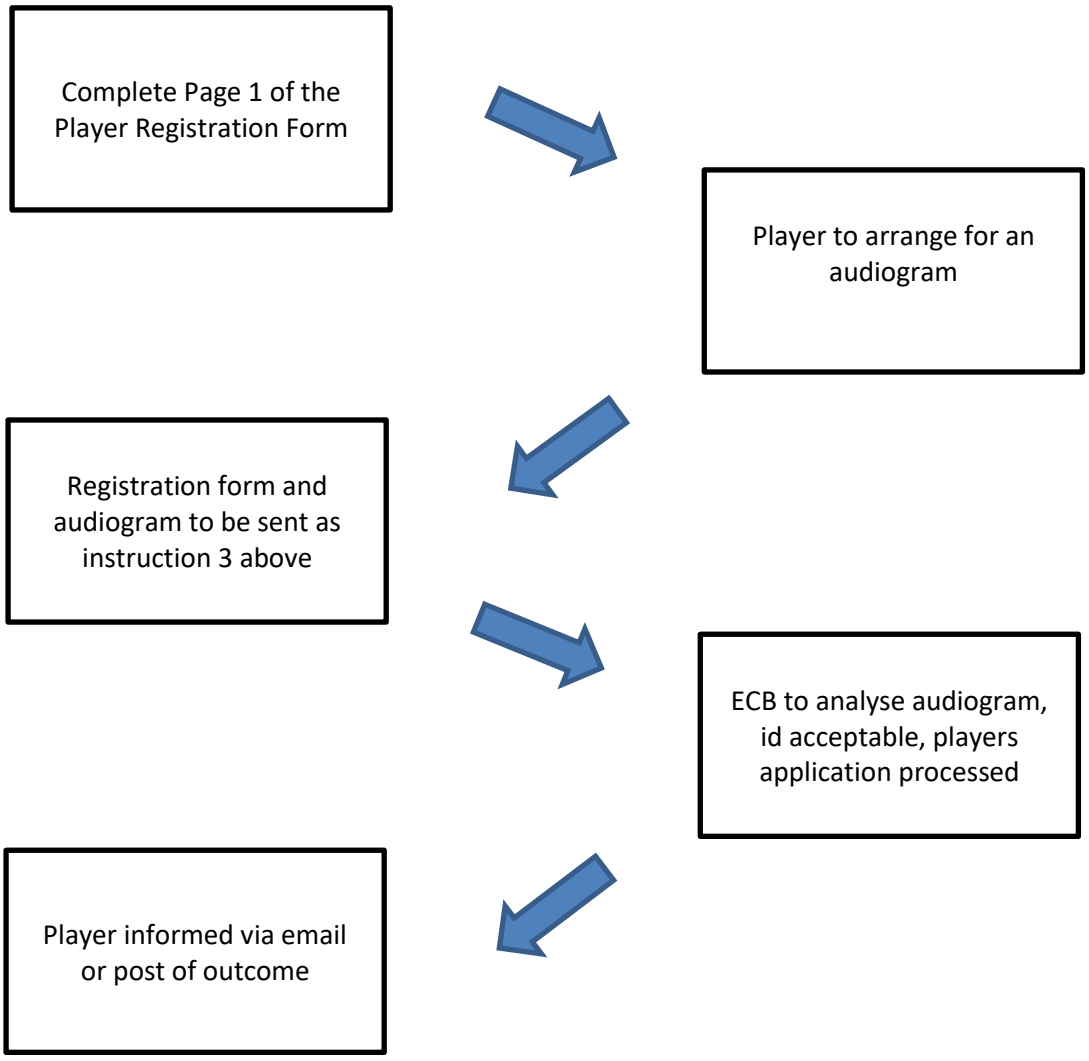
The 'Restricted Zone Area' in cricket will be defined by each organised and sanctioned deaf cricket series or tournament. Essentially, no form or hearing aid or amplification will be allowed on the playing area for either warmups or match play.

Below is a diagram to illustrate the relevant processes for eligibility into international level deaf cricket.

Process of Player Registration for players with a hearing Impairment (Domestic Competitions)

1. All players must complete an ECB Player Registration form. The form is available direct from the relevant County Disability Team Manager, or can be downloaded from: https://disabilitycomps.play-cricket.com/website/articles/28888?from=document_library
2. The completed form should be accompanied by a copy of your latest audiogram,
3. The form and audiogram should be sent to the ECB, either via email to: richard.hill@ecb.co.uk or via post to: 25 Nutfield, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1UL
4. On receipt of the player's completed player registration form and copy of the current audiogram, the ECB will contact the player detailing the players eligibility status

Domestic Registration Process



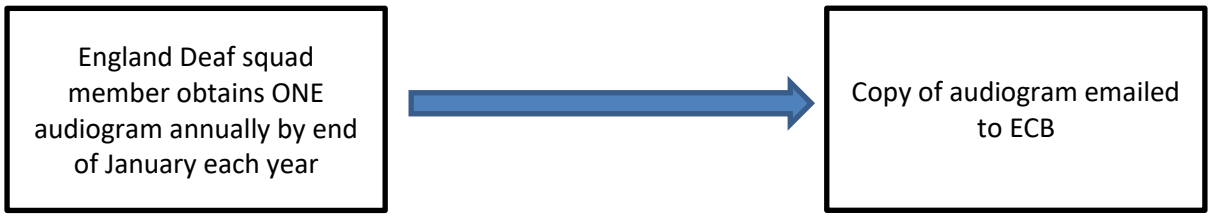
Process of Player Registration for players with a hearing impairment (International Competition)

1. All players who wish to compete in the England Performance squad must provide a minimum of **ONE** audiogram annually by the end of January each year.
2. Audiogram evidence must be sent to ECB (as above)

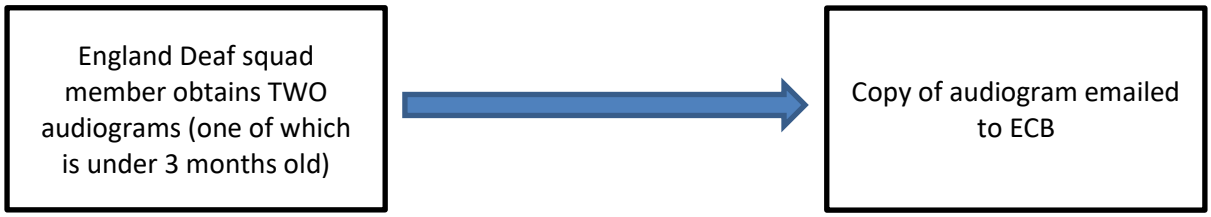
3. It is the responsibility of all England Deaf Squad members to ensure they provide the required audiograms to ECB
4. In years where an international deaf cricket tournament is scheduled, players will be required to provide **TWO** audiograms in the year leading up to the tournament dates. The latest audiogram in this instance will need to have been under three months old.
5. Where a player's audiogram results are within the threshold tolerance as set by the ICSD (i.e., between 55Db and 65Db) a minimum of **THREE** audiograms will need to be undertaken in order to evidence potential variances over an agreed period.
6. Where the said evidence results in potential exclusion from an international tournament, the player (and ECB) will comply with the rules in place for that tournament at that time.

International Audiogram Process

Non – Tournament Year

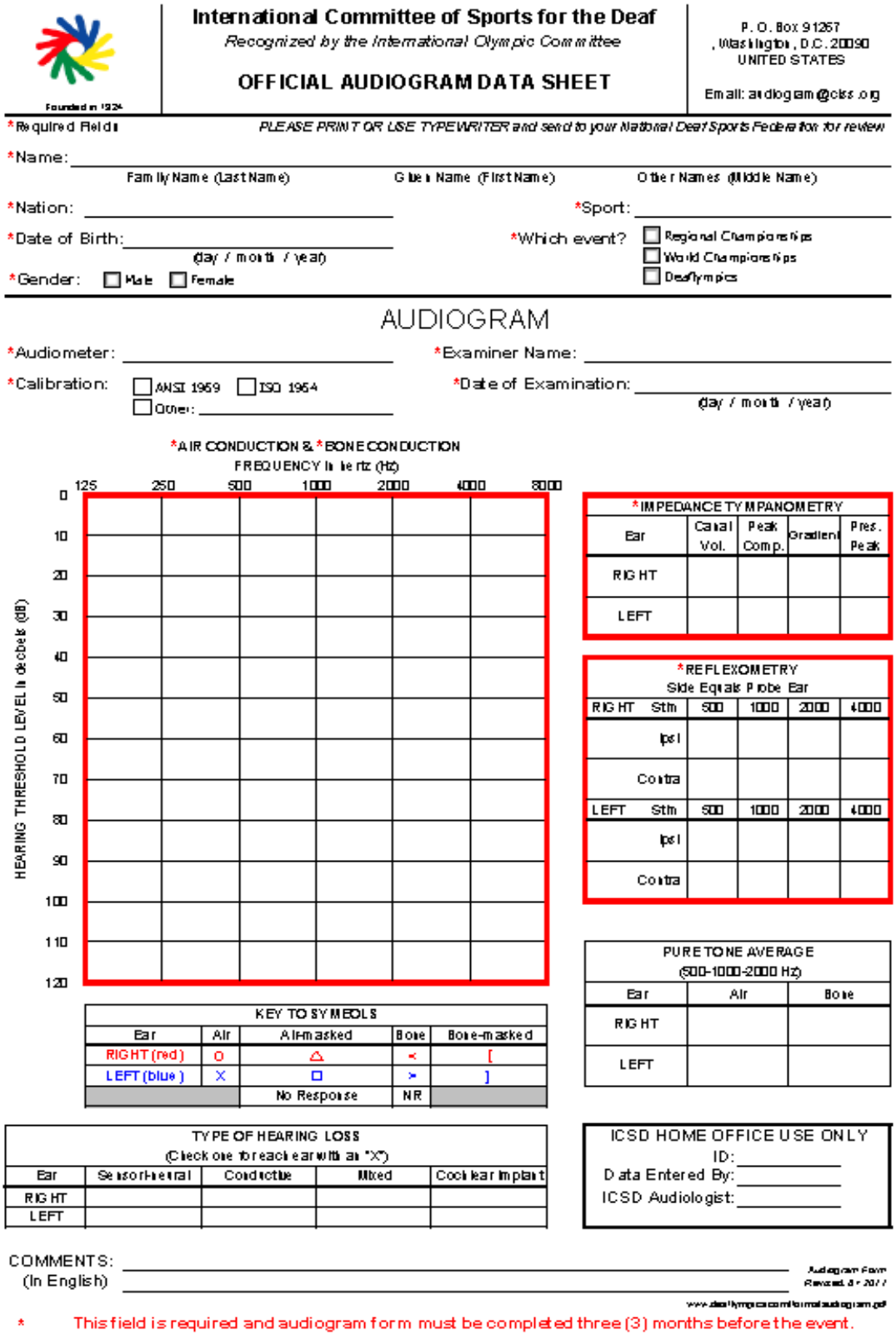


Tournament Year (Year preceding Tournament)



Threshold Tolerance (55dB – 65dB)

Example Audiology Form



International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee

OFFICIAL AUDIOGRAM DATA SHEET

Founded in 1924

P. O. Box 91267
, Washington, D.C. 20090
UNITED STATES

Email: audiogram@clss.org

*Required Fields — *PLEASE PRINT OR USE TYPEWRITER and send to your National Deaf Sports Federation for review*

*Name: _____
Family Name (Last Name) Given Name (First Name) Other Names (Middle Name)

*Nation: _____ *Sport: _____

*Date of Birth: _____ *Which event? ☐ Regional Championships ☐ World Championships ☐ Deaflympics
(day / month / year)

*Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

AUDIOGRAM

*Audiometer: _____ *Examiner Name: _____

*Calibration: ☐ ANSI 1969 ☐ ISO 1964 ☐ Other: _____ *Date of Examination: _____
(day / month / year)

*AIR CONDUCTION & *BONE CONDUCTION

FREQUENCY in Hertz (Hz)

125 250 500 1000 2000 4000 8000

HEARING THRESHOLD LEVEL in decibels (dB)

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

KEY TO SYMBOLS				
Ear	Air	Air-masked	Bone	Bone-masked
RIGHT (red)	O	△	<	[
LEFT (blue)	X	□	>	]
		No Response	NR	

*IMPEDANCE TYMPANOMETRY

Ear	Canal Vol.	Peak Comp.	Gradient	Pres. Peak
RIGHT				
LEFT				

*REFLEXOMETRY
Side Equals Probe Ear

RIGHT Stim	500	1000	2000	4000
Ipsi				
Contra				
LEFT Stim	500	1000	2000	4000
Ipsi				
Contra				

PURE TONE AVERAGE
(500-1000-2000 Hz)

Ear	Air	Bone
RIGHT		
LEFT		

TYPE OF HEARING LOSS
(Check one to each ear with an "X")

Ear	Sensorineural	Conductive	Mixed	Cochlear Implant
RIGHT				
LEFT				

ICSD HOME OFFICE USE ONLY
ID: _____
Data Entered By: _____
ICSD Audiologist: _____

COMMENTS: _____
(In English) _____

Audiogram Form
Revised 8 • 2017
www.deaflympics.com/formalaudiogram.pdf

* This field is required and audiogram form must be completed three (3) months before the event.

Notes for the audiologist:

Thank you for using the ICSD audiogram form. Our athletes need to complete this form fully to receive an Identification number to participate in upcoming Championship or Deaflympics events.

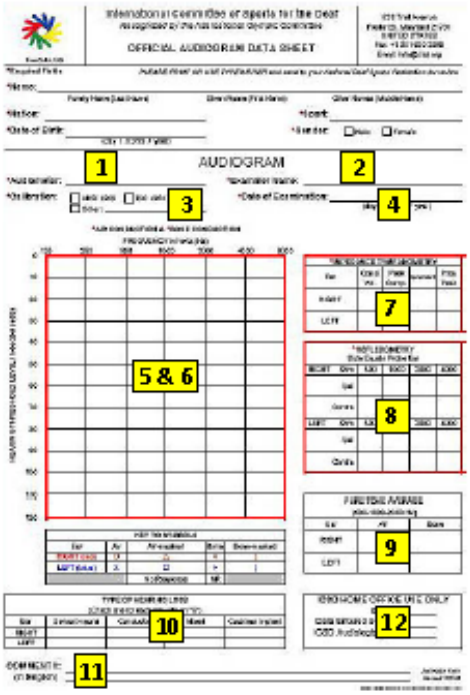
In compliance with ICSD audiogram regulations, here is a guideline for you to complete the ICSD audiogram form, as listed below:

1. Official ICSD Audiogram form must be used. The form can be downloaded from www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf

2. All four (4) types of audiogram testing below must be filled out entirely for **EACH** ear including:
   1. **Air Conduction** -Please test on 500, 1000, and 2000Hz.
   2. **Bone Conduction** -Please test on 500, 1000, and 2000Hz.
   3. **Tympanograms** (Tympanometry) -Please write numbers
   4. **Acoustic Reflexes** (Reflexometry) -Please write numbers or NR if there are no responses. Do **not** use dash mark (-) or zero (0).

3. Below yellow box with numbers indicates required fields for you to enter:

1. **Audiometer** - Identify the name of the audiometer.
2. **Examiner Name** - Name of the audiologist who performs the test.
3. **Calibration** - Indicate the name of the calibration used.
4. **Date of Examination** - Enter examination date.
5. **Air Conduction** - Record air testing results. See 2.1 above. If there are no responses in Air Conduction, please write NR as noted in "Key to Symbols".
6. **Bone Conduction** - Record bone testing results. See 2.2 above. If there are no responses in Bone Conduction, please write NR as noted in "Key to Symbols".
7. **Tympanometry** - Record Tympanometry test results. See 2.3 above.
8. **Reflexometry** - Record Reflexometry test results. See 2.4 above.
9. **Pure Tone Average** – Add 500, 1000, 2000Hz and divided by three (3) for both air and bone testing results.
10. **Type of Hearing Loss** - Identify the type of hearing loss by placing 'X' accordingly as shown on the form for respective ear.
11. **Comments** - Please write comments as needed about this athlete. If there are no Tympanogram or reflex equipments to test, please write comments in English.
12. This is for ICSD official uses only, do not write.



Failure to observe the requirements will result in delayed approval.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,
ICSD Staff

As of: May2011